

by migration or general dispersion before the surrounding region presented the existing obstacles to their transport.

This must at least have been after the close of the Eocene period, to which belong all the most superficial deposits of southern Palestine. It must have been before the Glacial epoch, which has left traces of its effects over the whole country. Before this period we have reason to believe a warm period occurred. The fauna and flora of Palestine would then be East-African, either identical or representative. Afterwards, in the period of cold, those species which were most tenacious of life, retiring to the depression of the Jordan valley, then, as now, proportionally warmer than the surrounding land, contrived to maintain the struggle for existence, and have survived to the present day to form "a tropical outlier," of which we have no other terrestrial instances, but parallel with the northern outliers of marine life which occur in the British seas.

In like manner the supervening Glacial period has left its mark in the avifauna of Hermon and Lebanon. It is needless to enter further on this subject, as the question becomes one of geology rather than of ornithology, and I have already treated of it elsewhere. But it is a fair illustration of the way in which the various branches of natural science are interwoven, and of the value of the examination of even a limited geographical area. To me, and to all of us, the great attraction of Palestine-natural exploration must be its connexion with Sacred History, and its bearing on the minor elucidations of Scriptural allusions. But apart from the connexion of the subject with that of the language and expressions of the inspired writers, I venture to hope the readers of 'The Ibis' may have found enough of ornithological illustration in the investigation to excuse the length to which during four years these papers have run on.

XXVIII.—*Notices of Recent Ornithological Publications :—*

1. ENGLISH.

SINCE our last notice of their work* (Ibis, 1867, p. 372) our friends the authors of 'Exotic Ornithology' have issued their

* Exotic Ornithology. By PHILIP LUTLEY SCLATER, M.A. &c., and OSBERT SALVIN, M.A. &c. Parts iv., v. & vi. London. Imp. 4to.

fourth, fifth, and sixth Parts, the subjects illustrated being all selected from the birds of the Neotropical region.

Part IV. contains :—

Myiadestes obscurus.	Hylactes castaneus.
„ unicolor.	Ædicnemus superciliaris.
„ ralloides.	Lanio aurantius.
„ elisabethæ.	„ leucothorax.

The authors (p. 54) express their belief that *Myiadestes* ought to be grouped with the *Turdidæ* rather than with the *Ampelidæ*. This arrangement was strongly urged by Prof. Baird (Rev. Am. B. p. 408), although he placed the genus as a section of a sub-family of *Ampelidæ*. Under *M. ralloides* (D'Orb.), are placed as synonyms *Ptilogonys griseiventris*, Tschudi, and *M. venezuelensis*, Sel., the identity of the first and last having been determined from a comparison of the types. The genus *Myiadestes* seems to be very well represented in the Antilles; but, as is almost universally the case with the natural-history productions of those Isles, our acquaintance with the distribution of the various species is anything but satisfactory. Only the Cuban and Jamaican species are well known; another is supposed to come from Martinique; of a fourth still less is known, while there is more or less evidence of the existence of others in the islands of St. Domingo and St. Vincent. *Ædicnemus superciliaris* was long ago described by Tschudi, but recognized by no subsequent author, the name having been placed by Prof. Schlegel and others as a synonym of the well-known *Æ. bistratus*, Wagler. The two species, however, are perfectly distinct: one inhabits the eastern plains of the northern portion of the South-American continent and Central America, the other is confined to the Transandean plains of Peru.

Part V. includes :—

Tachyphonus phoeniceus.	Accipiter chilensis.
„ delatirii.	Leucopternis superciliaris.
Xiphocolaptes emigrans.	Geotrygon chiriquensis.
„ major.	„ bourcierii.

Accipiter chilensis is the Chilian race of *A. pileatus* of Brazil, and has been confounded with *A. cooperi* of North America, the young plumage of the two species being very similar. As

the authors have not yet furnished the list of American species of this genus, according to their laudable custom when they have done with a subject, we suppose they have still something more to add respecting it. In attacking the American Pigeons they have set themselves the very difficult task of clearing up the obscure genus *Geotrygon*. The conflicting identifications of Bonaparte and Mr. G. R. Gray will make their labour by no means light. The whole of the American species of *Columba* require a searching revision.

Part VI. comprises:—

Chlorophonia frontalis.	Crypturus sallæi.
„ longipennis.	„ boucardi.
„ occipitalis.	„ meserythrus.
Melanotis hypoleucus.	Tigrisoma cabanisi.
Tinamus robustus.	

The Tinamous figured are all from Central America, north of the Isthmus of Panama, and are, perhaps, all that have hitherto been discovered in that region. We say “perhaps,” because Lesson’s *Tinamus cinnamomeus* and Bonaparte’s *T. delatirii* may be species distinct from *Crypturus sallæi*, though the matter is open to doubt. Still our friends have, probably, used a wise discretion in not rejecting the name *sallæi*, about which there can be no doubt, for either Lesson’s or Bonaparte’s appellations, accompanied as they are by such insufficient descriptions, to which no dimensions are appended. *Tigrisoma cabanisi*, a very distinct species, was described by Herr F. Heine, as long ago as 1859; but the description seems to have been overlooked till Prof. Schlegel included the bird in his ‘Muséum des Pays-Bas.’ Its range seems to be strictly confined to Central America.

As Eton claims precedence over the other public schools of England, it is fitting she should show that in all branches of human knowledge the pretension is well grounded; and certainly it must be admitted that she has now distanced her rivals in the matter of Ornithology, though we do not forget that Harrow led the way with the meritorious little essay of the Messrs. Bridgeman, which we noticed more than three years ago (Ibis

1865, pp. 222, 223). Mr. Kennedy has produced a work so creditable * that he must forgive us if we, in criticizing it, refuse "that indulgence which," he tells us, "is naturally looked for by an author of sixteen," and, regarding him as one of riper years, disallow him even the excuse of a "first fault." Where he has erred, however, it is almost entirely through following bad examples set him by those who ought to have known better; for instance, he includes (p. 154) the Golden Eagle, as a bird of Berkshire, partly on the word of Mr. Morris, who, in his 'History of British Birds' (vol. i. p. 20) asserts that an individual of this species was killed in the county. Mr. Morris, according to his custom, does not cite his authority for the statement; but if any one will take the trouble to refer to the passage, he will find it almost a literal transcript from a paragraph in the 'Zoologist' (1847, p. 1695), wherein the editor of that journal unfortunately departed from his usual excellent practice, and admitted to his pages an anonymous extract from a local newspaper, which, of course, is totally valueless as evidence in such a case as this. Every one who has had any experience in these matters knows that whenever an Eagle happens to be murdered in an English county, the purveyors of provincial intelligence almost invariably announce it as a Golden Eagle, though in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred it is, naturally, the commoner species. It is certainly possible that Mr. Kennedy has investigated this instance; but if so, he should have told us he had, and thus relieved himself from the obloquy of being even the innocent victim of a mischievous compilation. Mr. Kennedy, we must state, successfully invalidates a second similar assertion; but he gives currency to a third, which seems to us to require proof that the gamekeepers concerned were able to discriminate between species of the genera *Aquila* and *Haliaetus*. Though there is a pardonable desire on the part of the author to admit species to his book on evidence apparently very slender, we should be misleading our readers if we induced them to suppose that stories of this kind made up a principal part of it. Mr.

* The Birds of Berkshire and Buckinghamshire: a Contribution to the Natural History of the Two Counties. By ALEXANDER W. M. CLARK KENNEDY, "An Eton Boy." Eton and London: 1868. 8vo, pp. 232.

Kennedy shows himself capable of good, honest, original work ; and we are much mistaken if the zeal which has prompted him to the performance of the present promising labour does not before long place him high in the ranks of Ornithologists. Before we part with his book, however, we desire to utter a word of warning to the next author of a county avifauna :—Let him by all means eschew the exceedingly inconvenient practice of arranging the species in four or five categories, “Residents,” “Summer Visitors,” and so on, the effect of which is that one cannot find a species until one knows the character which it assumes in the locality, and that character is probably just the particular thing one wants to know about it. Mr. Kennedy has done the best he can to remedy the inconvenience by supplying a very sufficient index ; and in this, as in several other respects, he deserves great praise.

We are indebted to the kindness of Captain Bulger for a little pamphlet entitled ‘Random Notes on Indian and Burman Ornithology,’ which we are in doubt how to treat. Being privately printed in India (at Bangalore), it is in no sense of the term an “English publication ;” and further, though the donor has considerably informed us who its author is, yet that gentleman appears on its title-page merely as a “Vagrant.” We respectfully entreat naturalists in India, where the practice seems rather extensively to prevail, as witness “Mountaineer,” “The Old Shekarry,” “Ornithognomon,” and others, to lay aside this false modesty, and to confess their own identity. There is no better rule in science than that of disregarding anonymous or pseudonymous personages ; but it is very disagreeable having to ignore them, when they have to give (and this is often the case) interesting information.

A collection without a catalogue is reduced to half its real value ; yet many collectors neglect this necessary adjunct to their possessions—some from not knowing on what principle they should begin, others from not taking the trouble to prepare one.

Mr. J. E. Harting has just brought out a volume* which will exactly meet the requirements of both classes. It is in a quarto form, of writing-paper, ruled with lines horizontally and vertically, the heads of the columns printed for "No. of Specimen," "Name of Species," "Locality and Date," and "Remarks." At the end is room for an Alphabetical Index, by filling up which the owner may at once turn to the page on which his specimens are entered. The volume may be obtained with any number of pages; and Mr. Harting's plan is so simple that it is adapted to any kind of Natural-History Collections, and we can cordially recommend it to Ornithologists as an inexpensive and thoroughly useful assistant.

2. GERMAN.

Not to be behind that of other nations, the Prussian government, in 1860, dispatched an expedition to Eastern Asia. Its object, we believe, was political; but with that, of course, we have nothing to do here. On board the frigate 'Thetis' sailed, as naturalist, Dr. Eduard von Martens, of Berlin; and the first portion of the zoological results of his labours has just reached us†. Though bearing on its cover the date 1865, it would appear, from internal evidence, that the work was not published in that year; and it has only recently been received in this country. The 'Thetis' having put in at Funchal, Dr. von Martens takes the opportunity of treating at some length of the Madeiran birds; but he does not add to the facts recorded by Mr. E. Vernon-Harcourt (Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist. 2nd ser. xv. pp. 430-438), and has omitted any reference to his countryman, Dr. Carl Bolle's observations on *Anthus bertheloti* ('Ibis,' 1862, p. 343), which is the more surprising, seeing that they were also published in Germany (Journ. für Orn. 1862, p. 357). He speaks (p. 25) of a certain "*Prion brevirostris*, Gould," as occurring in the Madeiras, on the authority of Bonaparte (Consp. Av. ii. p. 194); but as he does not mention *Procellaria mollis*, which

* Catalogue of..... in the collection of..... London (R. Hardwicke, 192, Piccadilly). 4to.

† Die preussische Expedition nach Ost-Asien. Nach amtlichen Quellen. Zoologische Abtheilung bearbeitet von E. v. MARTENS. Erster Band—Erste Hälfte. Berlin: 1865. Roy. 8vo, pp. 192.

we know breeds there in some abundance, we cannot but throw out the suggestion that this last name should be substituted for the first. Such of the birds of the Tropical Atlantic, the Southern Ocean, the Straits of Sunda, and the China Sea as presented themselves to the observation of the author are successively mentioned as the 'Thetis,' after touching at Rio de Janeiro, pursued her course to Japan; and then we have a pretty full account of the ornithology of this last country, including some interesting particulars derived from a Japanese Encyclopædia and other works, in one of which (among, it is true, foreign and fabulous birds) he found (p. 104), strange to say, under the name of "Hoo-dori" an indication of a Struthious species with four toes and spurs besides! Returning southward, the frigate visited some places on the coast of China and Formosa. In the middle of the account of the Philippine Islands the work breaks off, and we look forward with interest to its continuation. Meanwhile we may mention that the author communicated to the 'Journal für Ornithologie' for 1866 (pp. 5-31) a list of the birds of that group; and it is the fact of his referring to that list in the course of the work we have just been noticing that, to all appearance, proves the date on its title-page to be wrong.

There has lately reached us a "Supplement" to the late Herr Bädcker's 'Eier der europäischen Vögel,' which was finished in 1863. Since Dr. Brehm, who was, with Herr Pässler, the joint author of the letterpress to this work, of which a detailed notice appeared in the former series of this Journal (*Ibis*, 1859, pp. 400-415), has been some time dead, we imagine it is to the latter that the authorship of this publication must be ascribed. It gives a few additional particulars of the mode of nidification of some of the species included in the body of the work; but in many cases the writer has not availed himself of the newest information on the subject. Some of our readers, however, may be glad to know of the existence of these supplementary pages, that they may possess the volume in its entirety, and we therefore append in full their title*.

* Die Eier der europäischen Vögel nach der Natur gemalt von F. W. J. BEDEKER. Mit einer Beschreibung des Nestbaues gemeinschaftlich

3. SWISS.

The first part of the second volume of the Swiss Ornithological Society's 'Bulletin'* is entirely devoted to a French translation of Prof. Steenstrup's 'Contribution to the Natural History of *Alca impennis*,' by means of which many of those persons who have not been able to read this admirable paper, either in the original Danish or in the German translation, may become acquainted with it. To this are added, by M. Victor Fatio, a few words on the specimens of the skin and egg of the species existing in Switzerland, and a list of those to be found in Europe. The translation seems to be very accurately done, and M. Fatio's remarks on the Swiss specimens are of some value; but the general list of European specimens is very defective, only fifty-one skins being enumerated, while it is stated that there are sixty eggs and six skeletons. However, those who have made the attempt to reckon up the different specimens will know that it is no easy matter to accomplish, mainly from the reluctance existing in some quarters to supply the necessary information—a reluctance eminently unworthy of those who call themselves naturalists. We believe the number of skins existing does not fall far short of seventy, while there are certainly more eggs and skeletons than is stated by M. Fatio. Still this attempt will probably lead to others, and in a few years we shall probably be in a position accurately to "take stock" of our rarities. A chromolithograph, which, however, we cannot commend, accompanies this publication; and we hope the Society may be induced to continue its labours, so as to furnish a complete monograph of this interesting species.

4. ITALIAN.

In the 'Atti della Società Italiana di Scienze Naturali' (vol. x. pp. 136–144) Count Oddo Arrigoni commences a History of Ornithology, by giving a short account of Aristotle, Pliny,

bearbeitet mit L. BREHM und W. PÄSSLER. Supplement. Leipzig und Iserlohn. (London, Williams and Norgate.) Folio, pp. 16.

* Bulletin de la Société Ornithologique Suisse. Tome ii. 1^{re} partie. Genève et Paris: 1868. (London, Williams and Norgate.)

Pierre Belon, and Conrad Gesner, and of the results of their works as affecting the science. As a part is contained in the whole, ornithology dates from the time of the "Father of Zoology;" and Gesner's 'De Avium Natura' appeared, we believe, in 1555; but Belon was certainly the first pure ornithologist, and his quaint quatrains, first published at Paris in 1557, have, with their woodcuts, long been objects of delight to antiquarian book-worshippers as well as to naturalists, who are actuated by a more scientific, if not a more practical taste. We look forward with much interest to the continuation of Count Arrigoni's 'Storia,' which we trust he will prolong to modern times.

The 'Atti della R. Accademia delle Scienze di Torino' for the present year contain two valuable papers by Dr. Salvadori. The first is on the ornithological labours of the much-regretted Professor De Filippi, and consists of a very careful abstract of and commentary on his contributions to various publications, including identifications, more or less precise, of several species described as new by the deceased naturalist. Among these we may here especially mention, as of interest to our readers, the fact that Dr. Salvadori refers, with some doubt, *Irania finoti*, De Filippi (February 1863), with which *Saxicola albigularis*, Von Pelzeln (October 1863) is unquestionably identical, to *Cossypha gutturalis*, Guérin (Rev. Zool. 1843, p. 163), described from specimens obtained in Abyssinia by MM. Ferret and Galinier, and figured in the account of their voyage (vol. iii. pl. 5). There can, we think, be no doubt on this score; for Mr. Sclater has lately been good enough to show us specimens of this bird sent from the same country by Mr. W. Jesse, the zoologist attached to the happily-concluded Expedition, and they are certainly identical with others obtained in Palestine by Mr. Tristram. The species, therefore, was not figured in this Journal (*Ibis*, 1867, pl. i.) for the first time as we had thought; and though it may be a matter of opinion whether Dr. Salvadori is right in regarding *Irania* as a genus distinct from *Bessornis*, there is no question but the species will have to bear the name of *gutturalis* bestowed on it by M. Guérin. Dr. Salvadori's second paper is a monograph of the genus *Prionochilus*, of which he recognizes

five species—one, *P. xanthopygius* from Borneo, being described and figured as new.

5. PORTUGUESE.

From Portugal we have received some numbers of the newly-established 'Jornal de Ciencias Mathematicas Physicas e Naturaes,' published under the auspices of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Lisbon. To these Professor Barboza du Bocage contributes three ornithological papers. The first, entitled "A ornithologia dos Açores," is a review of M. Morelet's and Mr. Frederick Godman's works on that subject, the last of which, as our readers will recollect, appeared in these pages (*Ibis*, 1866, pp. 88-109). The author accuses our contributor of having made several serious errors in transcribing the vernacular names of the different species he mentions. That such is the case we do not doubt. Few Englishmen, except port-wine merchants, are acquainted (more's the pity) with the language of Camoens; and surely such mistakes as Mr. Godman has made are very venial! He never boasted any knowledge of the Azorean tongue; and we should like to know how accurately Professor du Bocage could write down the local names of birds dictated to him by a Scillonian, a Manxman, or a Shetlander! The Professor is apparently much puzzled to account for the fact that two species of birds are said to be peculiar to the Azores, when all the rest are identical with European, Madeiran, or Canarian species, and so much puzzled at it that he doubts whether the fact can be as it is asserted. He suggests that *Fringilla moreleti* is identical with *F. tintillon*. On this point we have no remark to make, for we never had an opportunity of comparing the two; but we suppose Dr. Pucheran had when he described the former as distinct from the latter. Professor du Bocage allows that if the male of *Pyrrhula murina* really resembles the female, then it must be distinct from *P. coccinea*. He will, we hope, permit us to assure him that there is no possibility of Mr. Godman having made a mistake in this matter, and that *P. murina* is an excellent species, while we have some doubts whether *P. coccinea* can really be distinguished from the common form of European Bullfinch, of which it seems to be only a

very large race, though we have been informed that the call-notes of the two are unlike each other.

In the second and third papers, Professor du Bocage gives us some very welcome information as to the ornithology of the Portuguese possessions in Africa; and the lists appear to be very carefully drawn up. Some eleven species are described as new; but, on re-investigation, a few of them are referred to previously known forms. A very fine new form seems to be *Pternistes sclateri*, of which a figure is given; and there are others not less interesting. We trust we may receive many more instructive papers of this kind from the author, and are extremely glad to find there is much ornithological activity going on in Portugal and her colonies, under the management of Professor du Bocage.

6. AMERICAN.

Since we last noticed Mr. Elliot's 'Birds of North America'* (Ibis, 1867, p. 376) five more parts of it have reached us, each of which contains five plates; but on several more than one species is depicted. The list of them is as follows:—

Part V. (1867):—*Lampronetta fischeri*, *Lophophanes inornatus*, *Macrorhamphus scolopaceus*, *Nephocates niger*, and *Diomedea chlororhynchus*.

Part VI.:—*Haliaetus pelagicus*, *Zonotrichia belli*, *Brachyrhamphus temmincki*, *Colaptes chrysoides*, and *Phaleris pusilla*.

Part VII.:—*Graculus bairdi*, *Scardafella inca*, *Ereunetes occidentalis*, *Contopus pertinax*, *Larus occidentalis*, and *L. californicus*.

Part VIII.:—*Buteo zonocercus*, *Vireo plumbeus*, *V. vicinior*, *V. swainsoni*, *V. pusillus*, *Brachyrhamphus hypoleucus*, *Dendroica gratia*, *Cymochorea melania*, and *Halocyptena microsoma*.

Part IX. (1868):—*Exanthemops rossi*, *Parus montanus*, *Nectris fuliginosus*, *Xenopicus albolarvatus*, *Mitrephorus fulvifrons*, and *Nectris amaurosoma*.

Under the new name *Exanthemops rossi* we have an old friend better known as the "Horned Wavey" or Little Snow-Goose of

* The Birds of North America. By D. G. ELLIOT, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c. Parts V.-IX. New York: published by the author, No. 27 West Thirty-third Street, 1867 & 1868. Imp. folio.

Hearne—the beautiful and delicate species of which he says that he “ate two of them one night for supper,” a statement which has given rise to various pleasantries, and even to incredulity on the part of those who do not know how small a Goose may be without becoming a Duck. We think it was hardly necessary merely on account of the “blossom-face” of this species to found for it a new genus; but we will readily forgive Mr. Elliot this time if only in consideration of the pleasure we have in looking at his plate, and also for the sake of the smile provoked by the ingenious name he has invented.

The ornithology of the land chosen by the Pilgrim Fathers has at last met with a monographer in the person of Mr. Samuels, who has produced a volume* which, essentially popular in its character, is compiled with enough scientific precision to contain nothing that need mislead the veriest tyro, and much that may guide him to knowledge. The scope of the work is amply explained in its preposterously long title, which we reprint entire. We can only demur to the illustrations. It is probable they may render the work more attractive to the general public; but that certainly will not be their effect on the ornithologist. Many of the eggs, however, are represented (or dare we say misrepresented?) for the first time; and if in no other light than that, the book is worthy the attention of oologists.

If we are not mistaken, the want of a popular natural-history magazine has long been felt by our friends in the United States. ‘The American Naturalist’ is a very creditable attempt to supply the deficiency, and, we doubt not, will attain a very considerable success, sowing good seed all over the land. It may

* Ornithology and Oölogy of New England : containing full descriptions of the Birds of New England, and adjoining States and Provinces, arranged by a long-approved Classification and Nomenclature; together with a complete history of their Habits, Times of Arrival and Departure, their Distribution, Food, Song, Time of Breeding, and a careful and accurate Description of their Nests and Eggs; with Illustrations of many Species of the Birds, and accurate Figures of their Eggs. By EDWARD A. SAMUELS, Curator of Zoology in the Massachusetts State Cabinet. Boston: 1867. 8vo, pp. 583.

fairly be compared with the 'Magazine of Natural History' as originated by the late Mr. Loudon nearly forty years ago, which, as we all know, has by a series of gradual modifications become the leading biological journal in this country, having experience every now and then of a pretty severe struggle for existence, occasionally swallowing and incorporating a rival, but more often "improving it off creation." Things move faster among our cousins; and it will probably not by any means take forty years to see natural-history literature represented in the United States by more and perhaps better journals than we now have in England. However, letting futurity alone and acting "in the living present," as the American poet advises us, we wish to hold out our hand in welcome of the new magazine. Its first number contains some "Winter Notes of an Ornithologist," by Mr. J. A. Allen, treating of the birds which pass that season in New England, where, however, only fourteen can be said to be at all common—a very great difference from the state of things in the old country, where the same number can be seen almost at once in many a garden or stack-yard of a winter's day—and affording a still more striking contrast to the number of New-England "Birds of Spring" (forming the subject of a subsequent paper by the same author), of which there are no less than one hundred and ninety entitled to be called "common." Mr. G. A. Boardman, whom we know to be an accurate observer, notices (p. 53) the curious fact that he finds on the coast of Maine the Black Guillemot (*Uria grylle*) "in full black plumage all winter."

Dr. Brewer, of whom we are glad to hear after a very long silence, has a paper (pp. 113–123) on "Some Errors regarding the Habits of our Birds," which is well worth reading. He speaks with great impartiality of mistakes committed by Wilson, Audubon, and Nuttall. The first described the nest and eggs of *Carduelis tristis* in such a manner as to render it possible he had before him those of *Polioptila cærulea*, and seems to have been equally incorrect in his account of *Spiza cyanea* and *Euspiza americana*. The last confounded *Empidonax minimus* with *E. acadicus* in a very singular way. Dr. Brewer, like the rest of us, has shortcomings to confess, and a few of these are very freely acknowledged; but we must say that our worthy friend

seems a little too sensitive about a mistake of his own (for such he says it was) corrected in this journal by Captain Blakiston (Ibis, 1863, p. 43), who he states "has seen fit to comment, with some impertinence," upon it. Now we have to complain that Dr. Brewer, by omitting any reference to the passage in question, has contrived to cast a slur upon 'The Ibis' generally, and to place a difficulty in the way of any one desirous of consulting the original, which we discovered only after some considerable search; for he does not even name the writer of it. Our readers will now be able to turn to it; and we shall be exceedingly surprised if they find it liable to the charge of "impertinence" which the Doctor brings against it. Of the other ornithological articles contained in this magazine, though locally interesting, there is no particular cause here to speak.

7. AUSTRALASIAN.

Five more parts of Mr. Diggles's work* have reached England since we noticed it (*ante*, pp. 117, 118). The two most remarkable species figured by the author are *Casuaricus johnsoni* and *Ptilonorhynchus rawnsleyi*, both described as new. They both come from northern Australia; but we must remark that he fails to show in what way the first differs from *C. australis*, the existence of which has long been indicated (*cf.* P. Z. S. 1867, pp. 241, 473, 482). The second is a magnificent species, quite distinct; but whether it should be referred to *Ptilonorhynchus* or *Sericulus* seems at present doubtful. Mr. Diggles also figures and describes *Pitta mackloti*, which he says "is a periodical visitant at Cape York." We cannot help suggesting that the Australian form may be specifically distinct from the true *P. mackloti*, hitherto only known from New Guinea (*cf.* Ibis, 1864, p. 106); and a comparison of Mr. Diggles's plate with that of Mr. Elliot (Monogr. Pitt. pl. xxii.) shows that this is not impossible; for the Australian bird seems not to have the entirely black throat and cheeks of the Papuan; and we beg leave to call Mr. Krefft's attention to the matter.

* The Ornithology of Australia. By SYLVESTER DIGGLES. Brisbane, Queensland. Imp. 4to. Parts XI.-XV.